Pulses developed by IARI

6020. SHRI AJIT P. K. JOGI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Indian Agricultural Research Institutes, New Delhi has developed any better variety of pulses during the last six months; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) and (b) The Indian Agricultural Research Institute has released two varieties of pigeonpea, Pusa-9 with average yield of 22.0 g/ha. for the Eastern Zone and Pusa-355 with average yeild of 26.0 g/ha for the North Western Zone, in 1993. Two varieties of chickpea, Pusa-329 with average yeild of 22.0 g/ha for North Western Plain Zone and Pusa-372 with average yeild of 15.0-22-0 g/ha for the whole of India have also been released in 1993. In addition, a variety of chickpea BG-362 with average yeild of 31.0 g/ha for North Western Plain Zone and mungbean, Pusa-9072 with average yeild of 8.6 g/ha for Southern and South Eastern Zone have been identified by the Workshop in September, 1993.

Water scarcity in Latur

6021. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-report which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 14th March, 1994, under the caption "Water scarcity leaves Latur victims scratching";

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide relief to the hapless victims of ten killer earthquake of September 30 last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI ARVIND NETAM): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Government of Maharashtra is ensuring adequate water supply to the victims of earthquake in Latur and Osmanabad districts. With the help of water supply scheme, tankers and new borewells, the State Government is supplying on an average, 31 litres of water per day per person in the effected areas. 45 more tankers have been sanctioned for augmenting the water supply. These arrangements are considered adequate.

Amendment of Seed Act, 1966

6022. SHRIMATI CHANDRIKA ABHINANDAN JAIN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to bring changes in the seeds Act, 1966 and seeds rule 1968 and the formation of a central seed variety registration authority and also a seed marketing registration authority at the State level;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the main features of the seeds variety registration authority;

(d) whether the registration authority would be an independent body or partly or fully under Government control;

(e) whether Government has received any recommendations made by the seed growers and merchants' association in this regard; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI S. KRISHNA KUMAR): (a) to (f) There is no proposal to amend the Seeds Act 1966 and the Seeds Rules, 1968 for the formation of central seed variety registration authority and a seed marketing registration authority. Suggestions have been received from seed growers and merchants association regarding penal provision, modifications in certification system and representation in various committee.